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TO: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

ATTN: David J. Steadman - Examiner, Art Unit NO. 1652

FAX NO.: 703-308-4242 TEL. NO.: 703-308-3934

RE: Serial No. 09/402,488 Filed - February 16, 2000 Our File No.: 4369-98

FROM: Micheline Gravelle

DATE: April 12, 2001 PAGES: 2
(Including cover sheet)

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Practice Restricted to Intellectual Property Law

April 12, 2000

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Your Reference: 09/402,488
Our Reference: 9369-98

By Facsimile

The Commissioner of Patents
& Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Re: RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
United States Patent Application No. 09/402,488
Entitled: Method For Cleavage of Fusion Proteins
Inventors: Maurice Moloney, Joenel Alcantara, Gijs van Rooijen
Filing Date: February 16, 2000
Examiner: D. Steadman
Art Unit: 1652

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The present letter is filed in response to the office action of March 13, 2001.

Applicant provisionally elects Group I, the claims readable thereon as being claims 1-30, 41-44. This is without prejudice to Applicant filing divisional application to the Groups II invention.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, we respectfully submit that the application is in order for allowance and early indication of that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem it beneficial to discuss the application in greater detail, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at (416) 364-7311 at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

**Maurice Moloney, Joenel Alcantara,
Gijs Van Rooijen**

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